MARVEL

3

RATED T+

VENOM WAR
LETHAL PROTECTORS

PIRZADA
MARESCA
PRIANTO

"John's art made the most fantastical situations feel grounded and real. His work had a uniquely cinematic quality to it, and we strive to bring to the screen what he masterfully accomplished on the page: characters that, even as they're pulled into extraordinary situations, still seem human and believable. He was a wonderful artist and storyteller, collaborator and friend to so many of our people here at Marvel."

– Kevin Feige
PRESIDENT, MARVEL STUDIOS

"John is one of the defining creative voices of his generation, whose work will be celebrated for years to come. His artistic and design skills were unparalleled, and he moved into otherworldly when you took in his ability to tell a story visually. With all that being said, he was simply a great guy who enjoyed a great meal and a quiet conversation. I will miss John dearly, and I consider myself lucky to have been his friend."

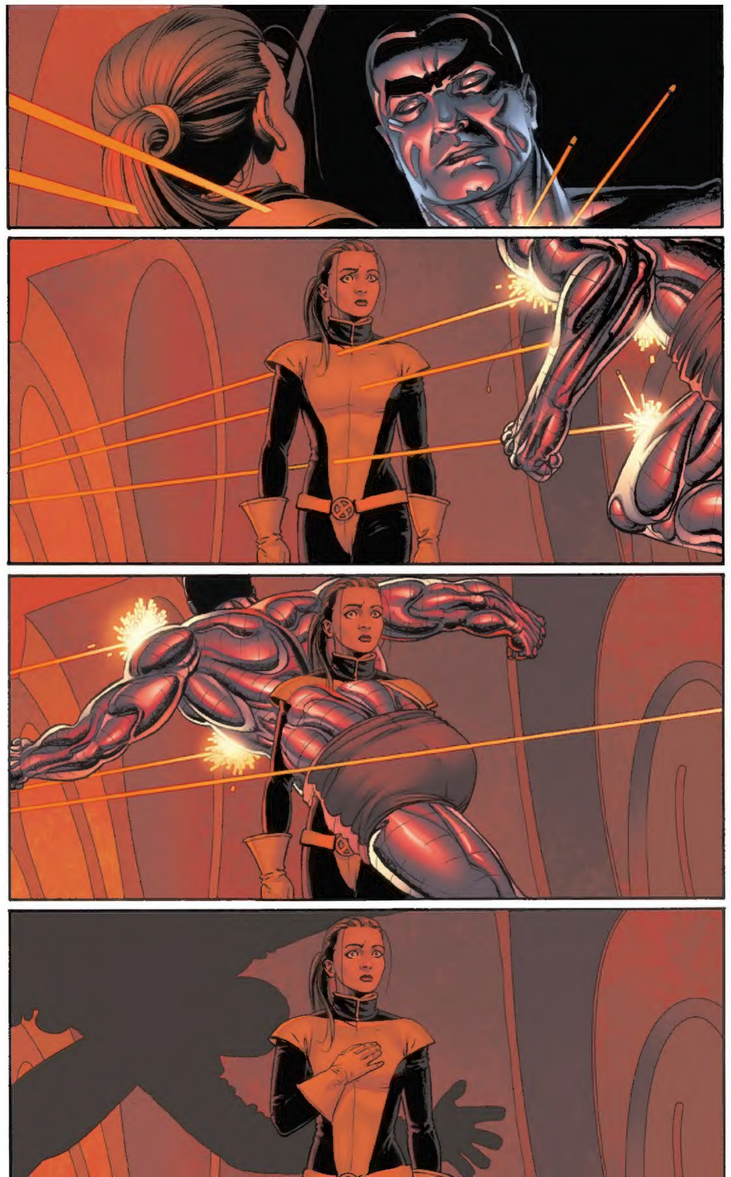
– Dan Buckley
PRESIDENT, MARVEL COMICS & FRANCHISE

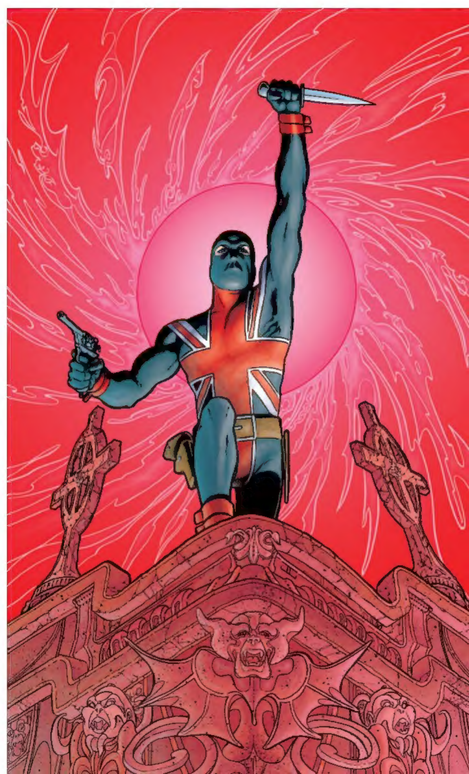
"John approached his art in the same way he did everything in life: fearlessly. It's what made him so good at what he did. From the soft touch needed on certain lines, to the bold bravado of the shots he often chose, John made every page better by putting 100% of himself into every composition and character. His comics truly embody his spirit, and while he's left us far too early, his legacy will live forever in these stories that he loved telling."

– C.B. Cebulski
EDITOR IN CHIEF, MARVEL COMICS

JOHN CASSADAY

PENCILER · INKER · ARTIST · FRIEND





YEARS AGO.

YOU'VE DONE EXCEEDINGLY WELL IN ALL YOUR ASSESSMENTS, MS. SABLINOVA.

THANK YOU.

WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT YOU CAN EXECUTE ANY SUBTERFUGE AND COMBAT FLAWLESSLY.

BUT TO BE A SUCCESSFUL COVERT OPERATIVE, ONE MUST BE ABLE TO ERASE THEMSELF ***COMPLETELY***.

ONE MUST BE ABLE TO COMPARTMENTALIZE EVEN THE MOST SLIGHT EMOTION IN ORDER TO PROJECT TOTAL DISPASSION IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOB.

CAN YOU DO THAT?

OF COURSE.

THEN DESCRIBE THE NIGHT YOUR ***MOTHER*** DIED.

...

THE SUN WAS SETTING. I WAS OUT FOR A WALK WITH MY MOTHER WHEN I HEARD MEN SPEAKING GERMAN, WHICH I FOUND CURIOUS.

I QUIETLY SLIPPED AWAY FROM MY MOTHER TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MEN.

I HADN'T SPOKEN GERMAN IN A LONG TIME, SO I FOCUSED ALL MY ATTENTION TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT THEY WERE SAYING.

THEY WERE ARMING THEMSELVES WITH ***RIFLES***.

THEN I HEARD THEM MENTION MY ***FATHER'S*** NAME.

I UNDERSTOOD... THEY WERE HERE TO ***KILL*** HIM.

I RAN AS ***FAST*** AS I COULD. I TRIED TO WARN MY FATHER.

BUT... THEY FOLLOWED ME RIGHT TO HIM.

AND YOUR MOTHER?

IT WAS BAD TIMING.

THEY SHOT HER RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

MY MOTHER... YES, SHE...SHE WAS LOOKING FOR ME. CALLING OUT TO ME.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE GUNSHOT.

IT WAS AN AUTOMATIC RIFLE--

INCORRECT.

IT WAS! I SAW THE RIFLES. I WAS ***THERE***. I REMEMBER--

THEY DID HAVE AUTOMATIC RIFLES, THAT'S TRUE, BUT ANASTASIA SABLINOVA WAS KILLED WITH A SINGLE PISTOL SHOT IN THE BACK.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, ***FATHER?***

BECAUSE IF YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN THE WILD PACK, YOU NEED TO BE ***READY***.

YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO RECALL EVERY DETAIL FLAWLESSLY...

...AND YOU NEED TO DO IT WITHOUT SHEDDING A SINGLE TEAR.

VENOM WAR

LETHAL PROTECTORS #3

EDDIE BROCK and **DYLAN BROCK** are at war over control of the **VENOM** symbiote, each believing that the other joining with the alien again would usher in a universe-ending catastrophe.

The battle has consumed the streets of **NYC** as hordes of mindless **ZOMBIOTES** spread like a symbiotic infection across the city. **LIZ ALLAN**, C.E.O. of Alchemax, where the plague originated, tasked international mercenary **SILVER SABLE** and her **WILD PACK**, armed with the original Life Foundation symbiotes, with breaking into the symbiote-obsessed Life Foundation and securing the clone of **SHRIEK**, the sonic-powered serial killer and onetime partner of **CARNAGE**.

To escape the swarming zombiotes, Sable and her team retreated to the pleasure yacht of her former lover, Dominic Fortune. But what is Sable really planning--and can she hope to change the tide of the **VENOM WAR?!**

THE WILD PACK

SILVIJA SABLINOVA, A.K.A. **SILVER SABLE**

THOMAS FIREHART, A.K.A. **PUMA**

OBAX MAJID, A.K.A. **LIGHTBRIGHT**

JACINDA RODRIGUEZ, A.K.A. **TARANTULA**

CARL STRIKLAN

LINA ABBAS, A.K.A. **FLICKER**

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THE *MISSISSIPPI QUEEN*.
THE HUDSON RIVER.
NOW.

I GET IT NOW. I WAS ALWAYS JUST AN **ASSET** TO YOU.

KRUNCH KRUNCH

HAD YOU TOLD ME JUST ONE GENUINE THING ABOUT YOURSELF, WE WOULD HAVE HAD A CHANCE AT SOMETHING **REAL**.

BUT YOU NEVER--

MMMMFF.

PUT DOMINIC SOMEWHERE HE WON'T BE FOUND. WE DO THIS RIGHT, HIS GUESTS WON'T EVER KNOW WE'VE TAKEN THE SHIP.

AS FOR ***SHRIEK***, KEEP HER NEARBY. WE'LL NEED HER IN A FEW MINUTES.

YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK, SABLE?

IT HAS TO, PUMA. SHRIEK'S SOUND WAVES CAN POWER THIS ALCHEMAX AMPLIFIER TO CREATE A ***SOUND CHANNEL*** IN THE WATER THAT CAN STOP THE ZOMBIOTE OUTBREAK FROM SPREADING.

THIS IS THE JOB ***LIZ ALLAN*** HIRED US FOR. I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE STAGING OUR DEFENSE ON FORTUNE'S SHIP OF ALL PLACES, BUT WE MUST PLAY THE HAND WE WERE DEALT.

AND IF WE FAIL, THE OUTBREAK SPREADS GLOBALLY. NO PRESSURE, *HUH?*

YOU SEEM LIKE AN EXPERT IN APPREHENDING HELPLESS WOMEN.

"HELPLESS"? YOU'VE MURDERED COUNTLESS PEOPLE. THE ONLY THINGS KEEPING YOU FROM DISINTEGRATING THIS WHOLE SHIP ARE THESE POWER DAMPENING CUFFS.

ALL THE MORE REASON WHY YOU COULD DO ANYTHING YOU ***WANT*** WITH ME, *HUH?*

NO ONE CARES WHAT CONDITION I'M IN BY THE END OF THIS.

TRYING TO TEMPT ME SO YOU CAN MAKE AN ESCAPE? THAT'S CUTE.

NO NEED TO BE SHY, SHRIEK. IF THERE'S A HARD TO REACH PLACE I CAN SCRATCH FOR YOU, JUST ***SAY*** IT.

UNH!

WHAM

UNLESS YOU NEED THE CHASE.

YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING THOUGH. NO ONE CARES WHAT CONDITION YOU'RE IN...

...ESPECIALLY NOT MERIDIUS.

PFFT PFFT

HOW ARE WE LOOKING, TARANTULA?

SHOULD BE READY FOR SHRIEK IN JUST A MINUTE.

WAIT, WHERE'D STRIKLAN TAKE SHRIEK?

WE'VE GOT INCOMING!

ZOMBIOTES!

BRACE FOR IMPACT!

THEY'RE ATTACKING FROM THE SKY NOW? OUTBREAK'S GOTTEN OUT OF HAND.

NOT *JUST* THE SKY...

MORE COMING FROM THE SEA AS WELL.

SYMBIOTE-UP, WILD PACK! ACTIVATE LETHAL PROTECTOR MODE!

WE NEED TO GET SHRIEK HERE *NOW*, AND ACTIVATE THE SOUND CHANNEL. PUMA, FIND STRIKLAN!

ON IT.

MOMENTS LATER.
INSIDE.

NOW'S NOT EXACTLY THE TIME TO BE PLAYING GAMES, STRIKLAN.

WHATEVER, PUMA. YOU MEDITATE. I GAMBLE. WE ALL DO WHAT WE NEED TO IN ORDER TO KEEP OURSELVES SHARP.

UH-HUH. SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO PRETEND WE'RE NOT UNDER ATTACK ABOVE DECK?

THAT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN, PUMA.

WE CAN'T FIND SHRIEK. DID YOU ***KILL*** HER?

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, STRIKLAN? I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD BETRAY US.

WHAT GAVE ME AWAY?

I KNEW IT THE MOMENT YOU FOUND A WAY TO DEACTIVATE YOUR ***SONIC EMITTER.***

I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE THAT YOU KEPT THAT TO YOURSELF.

HOW MANY TIMES HAS SABLE SAVED YOUR LIFE? AND ***THIS*** IS WHAT YOU DO? FLIP FOR SOME %$@#%$#@ SYMBIOTE?!

I'M TRYING TO ***SURVIVE*** THE NIGHT, PUMA. YOU'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK. YOU'VE EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND HOW POWERFUL THESE SYMBIOTES ARE.

YOU'VE CAUGHT THOSE GLIMPSES OF MERIDIUS! HE'S A @#$% SYMBIOTE ***GOD!*** THERE'S NO BEATING HIM!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, STRIKLAN?

I'M SORRY, BUDDY. WHAT I HAD TO.

CLR

CAUTION

FLOOR SLIPPERY WHEN WET

?!

SNAP

SKRRTCH SKRRRTCH

SKA KATCH

PFAH!

-SIGH-

KUNK KUNK

TARANTULA! LIGHTBRIGHT! EVACUATE THE CIVILIANS TO THE LIFEBOATS!

ON IT.

WHAT CHAOS HAVE YOU BROUGHT TO MY SHIP, SABLE?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA...

DO I KNOW YOU?

NO ONE HERE DOES. THEY THOUGHT I WAS LIKE MY OLD SELF. THAT I COULD ONLY CHANNEL SOUND THROUGH MY ***HANDS***...

"...BUT IT SEEMS THE LIFE FOUNDATION GAVE ME A FEW ***UPGRADES***..."

NOW...

...WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET TO KNOW ME?

THEY KEEP COMING. AT THIS RATE, THEY'RE GOING TO TEAR DOWN OUR EQUIPMENT BEFORE WE GET A CHANCE TO USE IT.

CLEAR THE DECK, FLICKER. LET'S GET SHRIEK HOOKED UP TO THE SONIC AMPLIFIER *NOW.*

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL AND SHE SHALL APPEAR...

IS NOW A GOOD TIME TO *NEGOTIATE?*

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY, PUMA. THIS SHIP IS GOING *DOWN.*

LET'S YOU AND ME GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

YEAH...ABOUT THAT... THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MISSED...

I REACTIVATED YOUR SONIC EMITTER, STRIKLAN.

BEEP BEEP BEEP--

BOOOOOM

WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A PREDICAMENT HERE.

SHRIEK

WANT YOUR LOVER BOY TO KEEP BREATHING? THEN I'LL BE HITCHING A RIDE OUT OF HERE ON ONE OF YOUR FANCY DRONES.

NNNFFF...

SHRIEK, YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE. SABLE COULDN'T GIVE TWO %$&@ WHETHER I'M BREATHING OR NOT.

YOU'RE WRONG, DOMINIC...

...IT'S LIKE WE NEVER LEFT *ISTANBUL*.

NOW, DOMINIC!

HUNH!

NO--

HRAAAH!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE

POONT

SORRY, SHRIEK...

...BUT THERE'S NOT A CHANCE IN *HELL* YOU'RE GOING *ANYWHERE*...

BAM

SHRIEK-KUN

NOW YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE ONE FOR THE WORLD

SABLE. STOP.

YOU'VE ATTACKED MY SHIP. NOW YOU'RE GOING TO KILL THIS WOMAN? AND YOU'RE BONDED TO THIS... THIS *THING*?

WHAT THE HELL *HAPPENED* TO YOU?

BRAAAM

BLAM

UGH!

NOTHING HAPPENED TO ME, DOMINIC. THE MISSION SIMPLY CHANGED.

THIS ONE INVOLVES SAVING THE WORLD.

WHICH MEANS, IT **DOESN'T MATTER** HOW WE FEEL ABOUT EACH OTHER.

CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO THE LIFEBOATS, BUT THE PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH SYMBIOTES.

SONIC AMPLIFIER IS **ONLINE**. WITH THIS SOUND CHANNEL IN THE WATER, THERE SHOULD BE A PERIMETER PREVENTING THE SYMBIOTES FROM CROSSING IT. WE'VE **CONTAINED** THE OUTBREAK, I HOPE.

NNNNGG...

SHIP'S TOO DAMAGED TO STAY FLOATING MUCH LONGER...

THE SOUND CHANNEL WILL HOLD. THE AMPLIFIER'S DESIGNED TO KEEP RUNNING BELOW THE SURFACE.

WHERE'S STRIKLAN?

HE... HE DIDN'T MAKE IT.

LET'S MOVE.

WHAT ABOUT--?

LEAVE HIM. HE DOESN'T WANT OUR HELP.

I'M SORRY.

GO AHEAD, %$#@. RUN.

THIS WON'T HOLD ME FOREVER.

MERIDIUS TURNED **STRIKLAN**. GOT IN HIS HEAD. HE USED HIM TO TRY TO SABOTAGE OUR MISSION.

WHY'D STRIKLAN DO IT?

LOOK OUT THE WINDOW. LOOK AT WHAT MERIDIUS HAS DONE TO NEW YORK.

STRIKLAN BETRAYED US BECAUSE HE THOUGHT MERIDIUS WOULD **WIN.**

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, WE JUST SAVED THE WORLD. I THINK THAT MERITS A DRINK.

YOU OKAY, BOSS?

YEAH. FINE. JUST CURIOUS...

DID DOMINIC SAY ANYTHING? IN THE END?

I'VE SURVIVED THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS. I'LL SURVIVE ***THIS*** TOO.

SABLE SHOULD WATCH HER BACK.

UH...

NO, BOSS. SORRY. HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

END.

VENOM WAR

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE!

VENOM WAR #4

VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF #1

CHECKLIST

~~08/07/24 VENOM WAR 1~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM 36~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 1~~

~~08/28/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 1~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR 2~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 2~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM 37~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 1~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 1~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: DAREDEVIL 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 2~~

~~10/02/24 VENOM WAR 3~~

~~10/02/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 3~~

~~10/09/24 VENOM 38~~

~~10/09/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 2~~

~~10/16/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 2~~

~~10/16/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 3~~

10/23/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 3

~~10/23/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2~~

~~10/30/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 3~~

~~10/30/24 VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR 1~~

~~11/06/24 VENOM WAR 4~~

~~11/06/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 4~~

~~11/13/24 VENOM 39~~

~~11/13/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 3~~

~~11/13/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 3~~

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF 1

11/27/24 VENOM WAR 5

NEXT

THE WICKED WEB-SLINGERS WANT YOUR ***BRAINS***--
I MEAN, YOUR ***LETTERS!*** SEND YOUR NOTES TO
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM. BE SURE
TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

VENOM WAR #5